

**Subject:** FW: Message from Senator Durbin

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From: <[correspondence\\_reply@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:correspondence_reply@durbin.senate.gov)>

Date: Thu, Feb 9, 2012 at 8:43 AM

Subject: Message from Senator Durbin

To: [REDACTED]

February 9, 2012

Mr. Ron Low

[REDACTED]  
Northbrook, IL [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Low:

Thank you for contacting me regarding male genital mutilation. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you know, genital mutilation refers to permanent or temporary changes to human genitals. Male circumcision, referred to by some as male genital mutilation, is most often performed on infants. Advocates of male circumcision argue the procedure is beneficial, while opponents believe it is a violation of an individual's human rights and can have adverse side effects.

A proposal entitled the Federal Prohibition of Genital Mutilation Act of 2012 was drafted to rewrite the U.S. Female Genital Mutilation Act of 1996 to protect males from genital mutilation. This measure has not yet been introduced in Congress.

Additionally, Representative Brad Sherman of California introduced the Religious and Parental Rights Defense Act of 2011 (H.R. 2400) last year. This bill would prohibit a state from adopting a law that bans the circumcision of males under the age of 18 with parental consent. This bill has been referred to the House Imagery and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health.

While there is no companion measure in the Senate at this time, I will keep your views in mind should this issue be considered on the Senate floor.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please feel free to keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

RJD/ei